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**MAN SENTENCED FOR DISPOSING POOL ACID IN TRASH CAN *Public Urged to Use Caution With Hazardous Household Chemicals***

A San Diego man who threw pool acid into his trash can, resulting in injury to a trash truck driver, pled guilty today to illegal disposal of hazardous waste causing unreasonable risk of serious injury. Christopher Francis Lacson was placed on probation for three years for violating the California Health and Safety Code, and was ordered to perform 100 hours of community service and pay for emergency response costs.

The incident occurred on January 28, 1998, when the defendant threw away a container of swimming pool acid while cleaning out his garage. After the City trash truck picked up the defendant's trash, the truck compacted its load, breaking open the acid container. A white-colored acid cloud formed around the truck, engulfing the driver. Following his training, the driver ran to a garden hose and flushed his eyes and face. The driver was then taken by ambulance to a hospital, where he was treated and released.

Expressing remorse about his actions, the defendant later contacted the driver to check on his welfare and has cooperated with the investigation. The defendant, a professional artist, suggested a way to utilize his talents for educating others about the dangers of household hazardous materials. Prior to pleading guilty, the defendant completed his community service by constructing a four-by-eight foot sculpture using items he found in the Miramar Landfill. This sculpture will be on display for public viewing during business hours at the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Offices located at 9601 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego.

"Every household uses hazardous materials, including bleach, motor oil, paints, pesticides, and swimming pool chemicals. All of these materials can cause serious injury or death if not properly handled and disposed," City Attorney Casey Gwinn said. "California law prohibits the improper handling and disposal of these chemicals, and if you violate these laws, you are subject to prosecution."

For questions regarding the proper disposal of hazardous household chemicals, you can call the City's Household Hazardous Materials Hotline at (619) 235-2111 or the San Diego Regional Household Hazardous Materials Hotline at (800) 246-1233.

**To show the danger of household chemicals, the City will demonstrate what happens when acid is placed in the trash. This demonstration will take place in the parking lot at the City's Environmental Services Offices, 9601 Ridgehaven Court, San Diego, on Wednesday, September 2, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. All news media are encouraged to attend.**

This case was brought by City Attorney Casey Gwinn's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit, with assistance from the San Diego Hazardous Waste Task Force.

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